

## Scotland Civil Registration

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Begin Scotland Civil Registration is the government recording of birth, marriage and death certificates and began in 1855. Before that date one would need to search Scotland church records to find baptisms and marriages. Scotland Civil Registration is among the best record sets to find family information and connect from one generation to another.

### To find a certificate you must know:

- Your ancestor's name
- Date of event or approximate date
- Place of event or approximate place

### It is helpful to know:

- Parents' names
- Spouse's name (for marriage and death certificates)
- Occupation

## CONTENT OF SCOTLAND CIVIL REGISTRATION

|                   | 1855   | 1856-1860  | 1861-Onwards   |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Birth Certificate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full name &amp; sex of child</li> <li>• Date, time &amp; place of birth</li> <li>• Father's name and occupation</li> <li>• Father's age and birthplace</li> <li>• Mother's name including former names</li> <li>• Mother's age and birthplace</li> <li>• Usual residence of parents</li> <li>• Parents' marriage date and place</li> <li>• Number of the parents' other children with their sex and whether living or dead</li> <li>• Informant's name and relationship to child</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full name &amp; sex of child</li> <li>• Date, time &amp; place of birth</li> <li>• Father's name and occupation</li> <li>• Mother's name including former names</li> <li>• Informant's name and relationship to child</li> <li>• Informant's usual residence</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full name &amp; sex of child</li> <li>• Date, time &amp; place of birth</li> <li>• Father's name and occupation</li> <li>• Mother's name including former names</li> <li>• Parents' marriage date and place</li> <li>• Informant's name and relationship to child</li> <li>• Informant's usual residence</li> <li>• Mother's occupation beginning in 1999.</li> </ul> |

| Marriage Certificate | 1855  | 1856-1971   | 1972-Onwards   |
|----------------------|---|---|--|
|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full names of the bride &amp; groom</li> <li>• Date, place and how married</li> <li>• Marital status, age, occupation, usual residence, relationship (if any) of bride/groom</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage and any children by former marriages living or deceased</li> <li>• Birth date and place of bride and groom</li> <li>• Fathers' names, occupations and whether deceased</li> <li>• Mothers' names (including former names) and whether deceased</li> <li>• Name of celebrant</li> <li>• Names &amp; addresses of witnesses</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full names of the bride &amp; groom</li> <li>• Date, place and how married</li> <li>• Marital status, age, occupation, usual residence and relationship (if any) of bride &amp; groom</li> <li>• Fathers' names, occupations and whether deceased</li> <li>• Mothers' names (including former names) and whether deceased</li> <li>• Name of person who performed marriage</li> <li>• Names of witnesses</li> <li>• (Address of witnesses beginning in 1922).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes all information from 1856-1971. In addition contains:</li> <li>• Birth date and place of bride</li> <li>• Birth date and place of groom</li> </ul> |

| Death Certificate | 1855  | 1856-1860   | 1861-Onwards   |
|-------------------|---|---|--|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full name</li> <li>• Date, time and place of death</li> <li>• Age and occupation</li> <li>• Marital Status</li> <li>• Usual residence if different than death place</li> <li>• Father's name, occupation and whether deceased</li> <li>• Mother's name (including former names) and whether deceased</li> <li>• Cause of death and name of medical attendant</li> <li>• Burial place and undertaker's name</li> <li>• Name of spouse</li> <li>• Names of children, their ages or if deceased their age at death</li> <li>• Informant's name, signature; and residence</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full name</li> <li>• Date, time and place of death</li> <li>• Age and occupation</li> <li>• Usual residence if different than death place</li> <li>• Father's name, occupation and whether deceased</li> <li>• Mother's name (including former names) and whether deceased</li> <li>• Cause of death and name of medical attendant</li> <li>• Burial place and undertaker's name</li> <li>• Name of spouse (sometimes)</li> <li>• Informant's name and signature; residence until 1965.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full name</li> <li>• Date, time, place of death</li> <li>• Age and occupation</li> <li>• Usual residence if different than death place</li> <li>• Father's name, occupation and whether deceased</li> <li>• Mother's name (including former names) and whether deceased</li> <li>• Cause of death and name of medical attendant</li> <li>• Burial place and undertaker's name</li> <li>• Name of spouse</li> <li>• Informant's name &amp; signature; residence til 1972</li> <li>• (Date of birth from 1966-onwards)</li> </ul> |

## HOW TO ACCESS SCOTLAND CIVIL REGISTRATION

### 1. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org):

#### **Find an index to a birth or marriage certificate online:**

FamilySearch.org has online indexes to Scotland Civil Registration for births and marriages from 1855-1875; 1881; & 1891.

1. Go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
2. Go to **Search** and click **Records**
3. In the search boxes type the name of the ancestor, the county where they were born or married, and an estimated birth or marriage date. Click **Search**.
4. In the search results look for "Scotland Births and Baptisms, or "Scotland Marriages."
5. Tip: For a birth, add the name of a parent(s). For a marriage, add the spouse.

#### **Find an index or obtain the original image on microfilm:**

The Family History Library has indexes on microfilm from 1855-1956. The Family History Library has original images of birth, marriage, and death certificates on microfilm from 1855-1875; 1881; & 1891.

1. Go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
2. Go to **Search** and click **Catalog**
3. In the **Subjects** search, type **Scotland Civil Registration** (*Note: There is more than one way to access this in the Catalog*).
4. Click on **Scotland – Civil registration (5)**
5. Click **Registers of births, marriages, and deaths, 1855-1875, 1881, 1891.....**
6. Do a **Ctrl + F** search on your keyboard and type the name of the parish, then record the parish number (i.e. The parish number for Row Dumbarton is 503)
7. Scroll down through the microfilms and find the film number based on the correct: **County, event, parish number, and year.**

### 2. [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk):

#### **Find a certificate online:**

ScotlandsPeople includes online indexes from 1855-2013. Online images are available for:

Birth certificates: 1855-1912; Marriage certificates: 1855-1937; Death certificates: 1855-1962

1. Go to the **ScotlandsPeople** website and register for a free account (records are pay-per-view through purchasing credits).
2. Login with your username & password
3. Under the heading **Statutory Registers**, located in the upper-left column of the page, click the **Births, Marriages, or Deaths** (This is the Civil Registration)
4. Search the index, then purchase the certificate. The image of the certificate will appear immediately. (You can get five certificates for about \$11).

## WHY USE SCOTLAND CIVIL REGISTRATION IN RESEARCH

- Find birth, marriage and death information for virtually every person after 1855.
- Find the names of your ancestor's parents
- Find marriage information for your ancestor's parents (only some births)
- Helps to discover maiden surnames
- Establish a time and place of residence
- Helps to verify dates and places in research

### Examples of possible research problems and solutions using Civil Registration:

- **Problem:** Can't find baptism of ancestor born in about 1833 (pre-Civil Registration)
- **Solution:** Search for a marriage certificate. In 1855 ancestor would have been 22 years old. Search for a death certificate as ancestor would have likely died after 1855.
- **Problem:** Can't find baptism of ancestor born in about 1785 (pre-Civil Registration)
- **Solution:** Look for a death certificate beginning in 1855. Ancestor would have been about 70 years old.
- **Problem:** Can't find the marriage date of ancestor married before Civil Registration.
- **Solution:** Look for any births of children from 1855 onward. Certificate may give the parent's marriage date.
- **Problem:** Can't find the parents of an ancestor who emigrated before 1855
- **Solution:** Look for a marriage or death certificate of a sibling of ancestor who remained in Scotland. Also look for any certificates of other relatives in the parish where ancestor lived. Cousins can lead to grandparents.

### Tips to remember when using Civil Registration in research:

- Look for all family members who may have any certificates in 1855, because that year contains extra information.
- Search at least 5 years on each side of the date.
- Indexes can have errors and omissions; search certificates by using index at the beginning of each parish/district.
- Search both, "Mc" or "Mac" alphabetically or drop the "Mc" or "Mac" when searching.
- A married woman at death can show up in the indexes under her maiden name.
- Names may have been registered at a later date
- Middle names do not always appear in indexes or on certificates.
- Check for all known spellings (use wildcard search).
- Census records from 1841-1911 can be used to help with Civil Registration.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org): Google: "**FamilySearch Learning Center**" to view free training videos on Scotland. Also go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) > click **Search** > click **Wiki** > in the search box type "**Scotland**." This includes a wide variety of info on Scottish research.
- [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk): For information click on the following three tabs: **Search the records**, **About our records**, **Help & resources**.



## **Scotland Civil Registration**

### **Practice Exercise**

#### **Exercise #1**

**Find the birth certificate of George Kerr Mackie born about 1866 in Ayrshire, to David & Elizabeth Mackie, to answer the following questions:**

1. What date was he born and in which parish?
2. What is his mother's maiden name?
3. What is the film number to the original image?
4. Where can you go online to find the original image of the birth certificate?

#### **Exercise #2**

**Find the marriage certificate of George Kerr Mackie's parents, David & Elizabeth Mackie in the 1860s in Ayrshire and answer the following questions:**

1. What is the marriage date and place of his parents?
2. What is the film number to the original image?
3. Where can you go online to find the original image of the marriage certificate?

#### **Exercise #3**

**Find the baptisms of George Kerr Mackie's siblings born in the 1860's in Ayrshire, to David & Elizabeth Mackie, by doing a parent search and answer the following questions:**

1. What are the names and birth dates of George Kerr Mackie's siblings in Ayrshire?
2. You can find their birth certificates on microfilm or online. What website can you go to online to find the birth certificates?